

REMARKS

(1) Claims 1, 2, 9-11, 13-15, 17, 19, and 20 are pending in this application. No amendment has been made in this Response.

(2) In the outstanding Office Action dated May 14, 2008, the Examiner finally rejects the claims by the following reasons:

- (i) Claims 1, 2, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto et al. in view of Yokota et al. in view of Takagi. §3 of the outstanding Office Action.
- (ii) Claims 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto et al. in view of Yokota et al. in view of Takagi in view of Wakabayashi et al. §4 of the outstanding Office Action.
- (iii) Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto et al. in view of Yokota et al. in view of Takagi in view of Kikuchi. §5 of the outstanding Office Action.
- (iv) Claims 15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto et al. in view of Yokota et al. in view of Takagi in view of Orbach et al. §6 of the outstanding Office Action.
- (v) Claims 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto et al. in view of Yokota et al. in view of Takagi in view of Chigira. §7 of the outstanding Office Action.

(3) The Examiner cites Takagi at the first time in the prosecution of the present application. The Examiner states that Takagi discloses peripheral circuits which include image processing (paragraph [0004-0005]) as a separate board in a camera system (Fig. 11 and paragraph 0071). The second full paragraph at 3 of the outstanding Office Action.

In response, Takagi discloses two circuit boards 30, 31 in Fig. 11. However, Takagi teaches that these two circuit boards 30, 31 are integrally bonded or united by the adhesive 9 (paragraph 0096). One skilled in the art understands that without the adhesive 9 in Fig. 11, the wire 4 cannot connect the circuit board 30 with the circuit board 31. One skilled in the art thus understands that the teaching by Takagi is not to locate the circuit board 30 separate from the circuit board 31, but to integrate or unit the circuit boards 30, 31.

On the contrary, claim 1 recites that “said electronic circuit board is located separately from said main board.” As argued in the previous Applicants’ Response, the electric circuit board is disposed between the image pickup device and the bottom surface of the apparatus body in claim 1. The structure recited in claim 1 prevents the noise generated in processing the image pickup signal from adversely affecting the main board. The separation of the main board from the electric circuit board is important in downsizing the camera of the invention.

As explained above, Takagi teaches two circuit boards 30, 31 integrally bonded or united by the adhesive 9 (paragraph 0096). The Takagi’s structure cannot achieve the improvement obtained by claim 1. Because of uniting the circuit boards 30, 31, the noise generated in one adversely affects the other. Moreover, Takagi teaches away from the invention of claim 1. Unless the circuit boards 30, 31 are integrally bonded or united by the adhesive 9, the circuit

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boards 30, 31 cannot be functionally connected by the wire 4, thereby depriving of the operability of the invention of Takagi disclosed in Fig. 11.

Thus, the teaching by Takagi is different from the invention recited in claim 1. None of the cited references discloses or suggests the features of claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is not obvious over the cited references.

(4) In case where the claims are rejected by new rejection, the Examiner is requested to issue a non-final rejection.

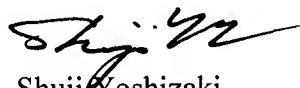
(5) In view of the above, Applicants submit that that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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